

## **“POWER AFRICA” & PARTNER COUNTRY ENERGY IN THE NEWS**

### **August 10 – 23, 2014**

#### *Article Summaries & Full Clips*

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## IN THE NEWS: Featured “Power Africa” Articles

August 10 – 23, 2014

### POWER AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS

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#### [Power Africa projects extend across all sub-Saharan Africa](#)

*August 11 || AFKInsider*

The big winner of the US-Africa Summit was Africa’s energy sector with \$14 billion in new pledges from the private sector and government institutions – amounting to \$300 million per year – to help expand Africa’s electric power infrastructure through the Power Africa initiative, which currently combines the efforts of 12 U.S. government agencies and 40 private companies.

#### [Race to electrify rural Africa could help the West too](#)

*August 21 | New Scientist*

Investments in mini grid systems aimed at powering up remote parts of Africa may provide a test bed for rural energy infrastructure elsewhere in the world

#### [Video: U.S.-Africa Summit makes progress in expanding trade relationships](#)

*August 13 | CNBC Africa*

CNBC Africa's Nozipho Mbanjwa and Dave Diederiks discuss the first U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit hosted by president Obama. He indicated that the goal for the Power Africa initiative was tripled and would now aim to bring electricity to 60 million African homes and businesses.

### OPINION

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#### [U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit - Notable Progress, but Work Remains – Tony Elumelu](#)

*August 19 | The Chronicle*

The US-Africa Leaders Summit reflected the progress we have made towards establishing Africa as an attractive destination for investment on the world stage and that was certainly encouraging. But it also illustrated how much remains to be done.

## IN THE NEWS: Featured Partner Country Energy News

August 10 – 23, 2014

### ETHIOPIA

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#### [Mexico to Share Energy Reform Experience With Ethiopia](#)

*August 16 | The Reporter (Addis Ababa)*

Mexico's landmark energy reform, which is expected to revolutionize the country's oil and energy sector by ending the long time monopoly enjoyed by PEMEX, a state-owned oil explorer, and allowing international companies to compete in the sector, was in global headlines recently. And, the Mexican ambassador in Addis Ababa says that Ethiopia can share Mexico's experience in this area.

#### [Electric Services Installs Transformers to Reduce Power Cuts](#)

*August 16 | The Reporter (Addis Ababa)*

In a bid to curb the recurrent power cuts, the Ethiopian Electric Services has installed 248 transformers in Addis Ababa and the regional states. The new transformers are believed to augment the existing old transformers which can hardly cope with the ever-increasing power load.

### GHANA

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#### [Akosombo Dam to Operate at Full Capacity Despite Low Level of Water in the Reservoir](#)

*August 20 | Ghana Broadcast Company*

The Volta River Authority says despite the low level of water in the reservoir at Akosombo, the dam is operating at full capacity. The water level of the Akosombo dam is reportedly reducing steadily and it is feared the situation could force a shutdown of the dam if conditions do not improve in 60 days.

#### [Ghana: Ghana in drive for long-term energy security](#)

*August 20 | BusinessDay*

Hard hit by gas supply shortage to its power plants in the early part of the year due to a significant reduction of the fuel from Nigeria, Ghana is taking steps to diversify its energy sources to achieve long-term energy security in the country.

#### [Ghana: U.S., Ghana Sign Compact to Transform Power Sector](#)

*August 18 | MCC Press Release*

The Millennium Challenge Corporation signed the largest U.S. Government-funded transaction of President Obama's Power Africa initiative—designed to double access to power on the African continent—with the Government of Ghana. The Ghana Power Compact invests up to \$498.2 million to support the transformation of Ghana's electricity sector and stimulate private investment.

### KENYA

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#### [American Firms Told to Bid for Energy Projects](#)

*August 18 | The Star (Kenya)*

American companies should compete to develop power projects if Kenya is to get a bigger chunk of funds under Power Africa, according to Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir.

#### [Array of Workshops At Nairobi Energy Summit](#)

*August 15 | CAJ News Africa*

Kenyan firms are set to benefit from free technical workshops that will be offered during the East African Power Industry Convention (EAPIC) to be held in Nairobi in early September. According to organizers, the summit would offer two days of practical workshops on energy efficiency, plant maintenance and clean energy solutions for the utility and large power users.

#### [Kenya Boosts Wind Power in Its Renewable Energy Mix](#)

*August 14 | AlterNet -*

*Thompson Reuters*

Kenya is set to gain more wind farms as the East African country moves to increase and diversify its clean energy resources. Nairobi-based company Bluesea Energy Ltd has announced it will begin producing 40 megawatts (MW) in the second half of 2015 at its flagship wind power plant in Meru, expanding the renewable energy mix of a

country that has previously relied on hydro and geothermal energy.

### [Wind Energy to Ease Cost of Electricity](#)

*August 12 | The Star*

Three million Kenyans are set to benefit from green energy with increased wind power feeding electricity to the national grid, according to a ministry of Energy official. Isaac Kiva the director renewable energy and petroleum said independent power producers will reduce the cost of power by up to 40 per cent due to the use of cheaper, more reliable technology such as wind energy.

## **LIBERIA**

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### [Energy Company Donates to Health Ministry](#)

*August 19 | The News*

The Management of the Liberia Energy Network (LEN) has donated over seventy pieces of energy lights to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

## **NIGERIA**

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### [FG Earmarks N752 Billion for Expansion of Power Transmission for Five Years](#)

*August 15 | Leadership (Abuja)*

Vice President Namadi Sambo on Thursday said the Federal Government had earmarked N752 billion for expansion of power transmission in the next five years. Sambo said this at the inauguration of the National Council on Power in Abuja.

### [FG Extends N33 Billion to Discos for Electricity Meters](#)

*August 14 | Daily Independent*

The Federal Government on Thursday said it is extending a soft term credit of N33 billion to enable electricity distribution companies (Discos) bridge the huge 2.8 million metering gap existing in the country. Government said it is concerned about low metering in the sector and the continued incidences of arbitrary or estimated billing, by the firms handed over to private owners last November.

### [Katsina Windmill Power Project](#)

*August 14 | Daily Trust*

The prolonged delay in the completion of the 10megawatts wind turbine power plant in Katsina has become a matter for serious concern. Unless action is taken promptly the project, which is already four years behind schedule, the prospect of further delay is a distinct possibility.

### [Three Nasarawa Communities to Benefit From Sustainable Energy Projects](#)

*August 15 | Leadership (Abuja)*

An UNDP official said on Friday three communities in Karu Local Government Area, Nasarawa State, are to benefit from the Global Environment Facility - United Nations Development Programme (GEF-UNDP) on energy efficiency.

## **TANZANIA**

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### [Biogas Tech Set to Raise Farmers' Income](#)

*August 12 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)*

Serengeti District agricultural

team has set up a bio-gas plant which is expected to be exemplary of modern farming and productivity.

### [New Geothermal Firm Established](#)

*August 19 | Tanzania Daily News*

With the potential to generate over 4,000 megawatts of electricity from geothermal sources, the government has formed a company to steer the country into effectively and beneficially tapping it. Operating as a subsidiary of Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TanESCO), the Tanzania Geothermal Development Company started operations in July this year, according to the Energy and Minerals Minister, Professor Sospeter Muhongo.

### [Rural Electrification Boost Farmers' Earnings](#)

*August 14 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)*

Rural electrification has proved to be efficient driver in promoting value addition particularly of agricultural products that helped farmers to fetch premium market prices. Statistics from Rural Energy Agency (REA) shows that there are 16 small hydropower projects operating since 1970's and 13 projects with a total capacity of 28.8 MW which are in various stages of development.

## IN THE NEWS - Full Clips

### Power Africa

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## Power Africa: Power Africa projects extend across all sub-Saharan Africa | August 11 | AFKInsider

URL Source: <http://afkinsider.com/68110/power-africa-wins-big-u-s-africa-leaders-summit/>

The goal of the U.S.-Africa leaders Summit was to strengthen America's financial foothold in Africa by shifting U.S. ties with Africa beyond humanitarian aid toward more economic partnerships.

President Barack Obama announced \$33 billion in new commitments during the Business Forum on Tuesday, Aug. 5 with the bulk of the commitments from private-sector companies. That figure rose to \$37 billion when Obama announced last minute additional funding at a press conference on Aug. 6.

And the big winner was Africa's energy sector with \$14 billion in new pledges from the private sector and government institutions – amounting to \$300 million per year – to help expand Africa's electric power infrastructure through the *Power Africa* initiative, which currently combines the efforts of 12 U.S. government agencies and 40 private companies.

The new announcements during the Summit brings the total funding of the program to more than \$26 billion in direct financing and investment guarantees, according to the White House.

*Power Africa's* initial goal was to add more than 10,000 megawatts of new, cleaner electricity generation capacity and increasing electricity access to 20 million household and business connections.

On the opening day of the Summit, the first-ever Power Africa annual report was released which notes that during the first year the initiative had already reached 25 percent of its overall megawatt goals and the \$7 billion public investment has so far leveraged \$18 billion in private capital.

"The private sector has shown tangible support for Power Africa through more than \$18 billion in commitments by 39 companies, including \$1 billion in commitments to the Beyond the Grid initiative by an additional 27 impact investors, developers and distributors of off-grid and small-scale energy solutions," states the annual report.

Now, one year later, the *Power Africa* goal has increased to add 30,000 megawatts of additional electricity capacity and expand access to 60 million households and businesses.

And, a year later, those projects are reaching beyond the six focus countries -Tanzania, Liberia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya – normally associated with *Power Africa*.

"There are the six focus countries, but there has always been an interest to support *Power Africa* broadly throughout Africa, even though there may not be the same level of attention," Shari Berenbach, President and CEO of the U.S. African Development Foundation told *AFKInsider*.

"I think the choice of six countries was primarily strategic in a lot of ways," Stephen Hayes, President and CEO of the Corporate Council on Africa told *AFKInsider*. "I think from the administration's point of view it would like to focus on certain countries and make it successful and then move on to other countries."

The Corporate Council on Africa is the designated private sector facilitator for both the U.S. *Power Africa* and *Trade Africa* initiatives.

“I think every one of the companies that are looking at power in Africa, are looking at where the opportunity exists beyond the six countries. If *Power Africa* is really going to be done by the private sector, it’s only limited by the amount of investment that the power sector wants to put in,” Hayes told *AFKInsider*.

“The administration doesn’t limit where you invest and, in fact, that’s why we had Cote d’Ivoire on the panel of the *Power Africa* lunch.”

That *Power Africa* lunch panel took place Monday, Aug. 4, during the Corporate Council on Africa’s all-day Business Forum and included a keynote speech by Elizabeth L. Littlefield, Overseas Private Investment Corporation’s (OPIC) President and CEO.

As an example of working outside the six *Power Africa* focus countries, the U.S. Export-Import Bank announced a \$17 million loan guarantee for the West African Development Bank, to support long-term financing for the expansion of the Azito Power project in Cote d’Ivoire from 290 to 420 megawatts.

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation also works outside the six *Power Africa* focus countries.

“To be clear, the *Power Africa* countries – those six countries that U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has special focus for regulatory advisory capacity – those are the focus countries, they’re not the *Power Africa* countries,” Overseas Private Investment Corporation spokesperson Charles Stadlander told *AFKInsider*. “OPIC’s work is definitely across sub-Saharan Africa in supporting *Power Africa*.”

OPIC did announce projects for the core *Power Africa* countries, including \$50 million to support construction and operation of the 459-megawatt gas-fired Azura-Edo power plant in Edo State, Nigeria.

The project represents the first phase of a potential 1,000-megawatt power plant and is the first independent power producer in Nigeria in 10 years following recent power sector reforms. American Capital Energy & Infrastructure committed \$130 million for the project, as well as future projects in Nigeria.

OPIC had also approved \$250 million in financing to support the development, construction, and operation of a 310-megawatt wind power project near Lake Turkana, Kenya. When completed, it will be the largest wind energy project in Africa.

But during the Summit, OPIC also announced the second round of funding worth \$10 million for the Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative, a partnership launched two years ago by OPIC, the State Department, and U.S. Trade and Development Agency to provide early-stage funding to leverage larger private sector investment in clean energy projects across all of Sub-Saharan Africa.



In the first round last year, the Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative supported more than 25 projects across ten African countries – beyond the six Power Africa countries, including Rwanda, Namibia and Senegal.

## Summit Energy Announcements

During the U.S.-Africa leaders Summit's various events, a number of other new and recent *Power Africa* transactions were highlighted, though some had been previously announced:

Standard Bank, Africa's largest lending institution, and General Electric reaffirmed their commitment to Africa. Both companies had already committed \$350 million in financing to improve the power infrastructure in Africa, and General Electric announced an additional \$2 billion investment toward infrastructure, as well as skills training and supply-chain development through 2018.

U.S. private equity group Blackstone and industrialist Aliko Dangote, "Africa's richest businessman," committed \$5 billion towards energy infrastructure projects across sub-Saharan Africa.

The World Bank committed \$5 billion in new technical and financial support, building on the Bank's existing \$3.3 billion commitment in the six focus *Power Africa* countries and its broader commitment to developing the energy sector across all of sub-Saharan Africa.

As had been anticipated, Ghana President John Dramani Mahama signed a new \$498 million contract with the Millennium Challenge Corporation to continue Ghana's overhaul of its power sector and boost private investments over the next five years. This was the largest U.S. funding through the *Power Africa* initiative to date.

One surprise came from the Government of Sweden, which formally announced a commitment to catalyze investments of \$1 billion that includes grants for power distribution projects and guarantees and loans for *Power Africa* projects. In effect, Sweden's commitment of credit guarantees will help mitigate the risks to private sector investors in African energy projects.

Prior to the Summit, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency hosted a "reverse trade mission" to Houston July 30-Aug. 1 for oil and gas ministers from Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique – all countries developing offshore natural gas – to learn about U.S. natural gas technology. Just days before that trip, the World Bank announced approval of \$50 million to the Government of Kenya to help manage the country's oil and gas sector.

During the Summit, the *Power Africa Off-Grid Challenge*, jointly funded by the U.S. African Development Foundation, GE, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, announced some of the winners of their second round of \$100,000 grants, with the first three awards targeting Liberia.

"We're going to be making 18 to 20 awards all together, including the three to Liberia, and the majority of them will come out in September," Shari Berenbach, President and CEO of the U.S. African Development Foundation told *AFKInsider*.

"There was a lot of interest from the U.S. government more broadly about what do we have ready to announce and we were very cautious about offering to announce all of the winners because the whole review and due diligence process is quite extensive," Berenbach told *AFKInsider*.



Instead, what they did was fast-track the Liberian review ahead of the others because the energy situation in that country was so dire, according to Berenbach.

“And off-grid solutions have been a high priority for [the Liberian] government,” Berenbach told *AFKInsider*.

The three Liberian companies each receiving the \$100,000 grants to building solar mini-grids include:

Alternative Energy Inc., which will serve Galama Town, an isolated rural area 225 miles from the capitol, by bringing electricity to 90 households, a school, a health clinic, and several small shops.

Outside Monrovia, Ecovillage Community Improvement Association will serve its low- and middle-income clients, as well as over 100 homes, small businesses and kiosks. Partner Ecovillage Homes Inc. has also leveraged funding from OPIC and domestic and foreign investors.

Liberia Engineering and Geo-Tech Consultants will reach 50 households, small businesses, a school, and a health clinic north of Monrovia.

### **Beyond Power Africa**

Dozens of meetings took place alongside the main 3-day Summit event where other energy deals and strategies were discussed.

One noteworthy meeting took place on Sunday, Aug. 3 – the eve of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit – where Millennium Challenge Corporation CEO Dana J. Hyde, and Overseas Private Investment Corporation President and CEO Elizabeth L. Littlefield co-chaired a roundtable discussion that brought together ministers from Morocco, Tanzania, Liberia, and Lesotho with business leaders from GE Africa, BlackRhino Capital Management, Standard Bank, Endeavor, American Capital Energy & Infrastructure, and Kupanda Capital.

The closed-door discussion focused on strategies for attracting more private sector energy investment and “aligning their risk perceptions that each of them brings to African power deals.”

“The significant take away is that it was a frank and open exchange of ideas,”

Overseas Private Investment Corporation spokesperson Stadtlander told *AFKInsider*.

“And if you think of it in that sense, it’s a pretty important discussion for the two parties who don’t always meet behind closed doors. And I think the importance of it was that it was a closed-door meeting and they could speak pretty openly about which hurdles each one of them uniquely face in a way that they couldn’t if they were on a panel discussion on stage,” Stadtlander told *AFKInsider*.

The *Power Africa* annual report notes: “As *Power Africa* enters its second year, it will seek to incorporate lessons learned since its launch. Opportunities exist for augmented and specialized transaction advisory support, greater commercial engagement and trade ties with U.S. businesses, broader regional geographic focus within sub-Saharan Africa, and partnership with new donors, financial institutions, private sector partners, and governments.”

“It’s easy to try to total-up all the megawatts and all the numbers of projects, and it’s important to note that projects can be measured in capacity and the institutional knowledge to create these projects,” says OPIC’s Stadlander. “The megawatts are important, the access is important, but the systems that we’re helping to put in place are just as important as well.”

## Power Africa: Race to electrify rural Africa could help the West too | August 21 | New Scientist

Source URL: <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg22329832.900-race-to-electrify-rural-africa-could-help-the-west-too.html>

*Investments in mini grid systems aimed at powering up remote parts of Africa may provide a test bed for rural energy infrastructure elsewhere in the world*

TURNING on the lights in Africa may help to power up the rest of the world sustainably. New investments in mini grid systems aimed at bringing power to rural Africa and other remote areas may provide a test bed for the rural energy infrastructure of the future.

Rich nations are taking an increasing interest in electrifying the rest of the world. At the Africa Leaders Summit in Washington DC this month, US president Barack Obama announced an additional \$12 billion in funding for his administration's Power Africa initiative, which aims to help bring power to at least 60 million households and businesses across the continent.

But 85 per cent of the 1.3 billion people lacking electricity worldwide live in rural areas. That means powering Africa won't be as simple as hooking up villages to a centralised power grid. Localised "micro-grids" are beginning to take off. They can generate anything from a few watts to a few megawatts and provide power for tens to thousands of households at a time.

An increasing amount of this power is coming from renewable sources, such as wind, solar and hydro. "It creates an opportunity," says Subhes Bhattacharyya at De Montfort University in Leicester, UK. "You don't have to follow the old-fashioned way of doing things. You can jump the queue to new technologies."

For instance, international group Practical Action is building micro-hydro-power plants in Zimbabwe and Kenya, which harness falling water such as that in mountain rivers.

Another group, a Kenyan start-up called Access:energy, developed a model to teach Kenyans to make parts of wind turbines out of scrap metal and car parts, reducing the need for outside help should a part of the system break. A single turbine can generate about 2.5 kilowatt-hours per day, enough to power a micro-grid for 50 homes.

These sorts of local efforts are important – and not just for getting electricity to rural Africa. The continental US and other rich parts of the world have set goals for switching to renewable power and reinventing electricity grids as well. Lessons learned in Africa could help get parts of the US running on renewables and micro-grids.

"There are vulnerabilities because of the way our US grid is based on big, centralised power stations that are all very interdependent," says Gwen Holdmann at the Alaska Center for Energy and Power

in Fairbanks. "If one component goes down, it can cause a cascading effect." Switching to local grids can ultimately help make the whole power infrastructure more robust in emergencies such as hurricanes or solar storms.

Not everyone agrees that renewable energy is the best option for Africa, however. Micro-grids may not be the cheapest option in the long run, as electricity from small grids tends to be three or four times as expensive per unit than that from centralised sources.

It hardly seems fair that the people who can least afford energy must use a more expensive system, says Bhattacharyya. "On the other hand, if they don't get electricity and remain in darkness, then it's unfair for them as well. That's the choice one has to make, and there's no single solution for all."

*This article appeared in print under the headline "Africa's power surge"*

## **Power Africa: Video: U.S.-Africa Summit makes progress in expanding trade relationships | August 13 | CNBC Africa**

Source URL: <http://www.cnbc africa.com/video/?bctid=3727799098001>

Wed, 13 Aug 2014 06:05:55 GMT

Last week saw the first U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit hosted by president Obama after which he said important progress was made in expanding trade relationships. He also announced \$33 billion in new trade and investments to help spur African development and support American jobs. He also indicated that the goal for the Power Africa initiative was tripled and would now aim to bring electricity to 60 million African homes and businesses. Attending the summit were CNBC Africa's Nozipho Mbanjwa and Dave Diederiks.

## **Power Africa - Opinion: U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit - Notable Progress, but Work Remains | August 19 | The Chronicle**

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408191269.html>

By Tony O. Elumelu

The US-Africa Summit reflected the progress we have made toward establishing Africa as an attractive destination for investment on the world stage and that was certainly encouraging. But it also illustrated how much remains to be done.

The summit, convened by President Obama, was a major undertaking. It brought together the leaders of nearly African nation and the continent's business leaders, and enabled them to engage in meaningful dialogue with U.S. policymakers and business leaders. What emerged is that U.S. investors are beginning to understand, in ways they have not in the past, that involvement in Africa should mean partnership rather than charity, and that investment in Africa's long-term development will reward not only Africans, but also U.S. businesses, investors and by extension, the global economy.

We are clearly moving closer to the economic solution that I call Africapitalism. Africapitalism is based on the idea that long-term investment in Africa, aimed at generating both economic prosperity and social wealth, provides the most effective path to African development, and that an economically self-sufficient and sustainable Africa can become a major economic player, with benefits for its trading partners as well.

With that in mind, I was encouraged to see how the global understanding of Africa is evolving. During the Summit business portion of the Summit, facilitated by Michael Bloomberg, President Obama announced private investment in Africa totaling \$14 billion. That is remarkable. A package that large, announced by a sitting President, would in the past have been provided as aid. Now it is coming as catalytic capital to drive job creation and economic growth.

It includes investments by General Electric (GE), Coca-Cola, Marriott and Blackstone - companies that are committed to Africa for the long term. This continues a trend. As I wrote in a pre-Summit op-ed in the Wall Street Journal, GE is investing in infrastructure development in Calabar, Nigeria, Wal-Mart is establishing itself in South Africa through Massmart, and IBM is aggressively expanding in Africa, starting in Nairobi.

And on the continent, a new wave of 21st Century African business leaders are themselves contributing to the economic development of the continent in ways their predecessors never dreamed. My company Heirs Holdings' \$2.5 billion commitment to President Obama's Power Africa Initiative, the largest single private commitment to the initial announcement, is our own contribution to the true and sustainable economic development of Africa.

The Dangote Group is planning to construct a \$9 billion refinery to cater to domestic gasoline consumption and will create massive jobs. These projects are taking the path that creates economic and social wealth. Along with these multi-billion dollar macro-development investments, we are also investing in the future of Africa through smaller businesses and our younger citizens. The Tony Elumelu Foundation is committing USD100m to fund 10,000 start-up entrepreneurs across Africa. In addition, we are establishing the Nigeria Opportunities and Empowerment Fund, a \$9 million resource for entrepreneurial approaches to supporting and improving troubled communities around Nigeria.

What will make these investments succeed? The U.S. government, driven by Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, and private investors must above all else, recognize that Africa is transforming positively. For much of the last 500 years of African history, foreign economic involvement was about the extraction of resources and exportation of wealth. Today we are acquiring the capacity to generate wealth within - to refine peanuts into cooking oil in Africa, crude oil into gasoline in Africa, cotton lint into garments in Africa, and cocoa into chocolate in Africa. Developing this processing and manufacturing capacity must be a major focus of investment.

Fundamental infrastructure also needs to improve. Power generation remains a major challenge, and the lack of reliable power hinders economic development. An additional \$12 billion in private funding for the Power Africa initiative - announced by President Obama during the summit - brings the total funding for this project to \$26 billion, an investment that promises to provide 30,000 megawatts in new capacity to 60 million households and businesses across Africa.

Governments must do their part in improving the investment environment in Africa as has been happening in the agriculture and power sectors in Rwanda and Nigeria, to encourage both domestic and foreign investment- all within the context of national development plans and clearly outlined targets. The US government should also do its part by passing the Energize Africa Act to expand opportunities to partner with African countries in the power sector, and reauthorize and extend AGOA for 15 years.

We should all keep in mind, as Secretary of State John Kerry said, "Business is not just business for the sake of business," he said. "It is for providing the foundation for people to be able to live their lives with opportunity, dignity, and respect." Strengthening US-Africa ties serves an important human purpose. It is also not just a conversation, it's a journey. We've set course, and we must stay the course.

## **Ethiopia: Mexico to Share Energy Reform Experience With Ethiopia | August 16 | The Reporter (Addis Ababa)**

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408180217.html>

By Shaida Hussein

Mexico's landmark energy reform, which is expected to revolutionize the country's oil and energy sector by ending the long time monopoly enjoyed by PEMEX, a state-owned oil explorer, and allowing international companies to compete in the sector, was in global headlines recently.

And, the Mexican ambassador in Addis Ababa says that Ethiopia can share Mexico's experience in this area.

At the 65th anniversary of the start of Ethio-Mexico diplomatic ties, Alfredo Miranda, ambassador to Ethiopia, said that currently Mexico has passed a broad reform that complements the country's economy. Among the reforms, the one on energy is the most important. This is by far the most radical reform for Mexican oil sector and Ethiopia is said to benefit if it is to gain experience from implementation of the sectoral reform.

The energy reform will allow Mexico to bring, adapt and take advantage of the technologies and industry know-how to maximize oil income and reduce environmental risks, for the benefit of Mexican workers, business and families, according to the ambassador. "The president has already signed the landmark energy reform legislation," Miranda said on the occasion. Most of the new laws will be applicable in January 2015.

The government will publish the rules and market structure for new domestic clean energy certificate, a Mexican version of that certifies emission reduction (CER) bonds, governed by the clean development mechanism of the 1992 Kyoto Protocol. "Once we have passed the processes and when the bill is enacted we are going to be in condition to share information and experience with Ethiopia and we have been working here with the head of officials towards that end," told The Reporter.

The ambassador also talked about the historic Mexico square in Addis Ababa and he announced that the square will be reconstructed next year. The square was constructed from an event that happened in 1935-1936 when Emperor Haile-selassie I appealed to the League of Nations on the aggression committed against Ethiopia by Fascist Italy and Mexico was one of the few countries that condemned this. Following this event Mexico Square was built. Mexico too has a place named after Ethiopia. Metro Etiopía/Plaza de la Transparencia, which is formerly known as Metro Etiopía, is a metro station on the Mexico City Metro. It is located in the Benito Juárez borough of Mexico City.

But due to the construction of the light railway here in the capital the square was removed. The Ambassador said he had spoken to the concerned body and the city's mayor about reconstructing it. The reconstruction will be conducted next year.

Mexico remained a friend to Ethiopia since its invasion in 1935. In 1939, when the Emperor was in exile, he wrote a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. "Then we established our bilateral relationship after the Emperor came back to his country in 1941.

## **Ethiopia: Electric Services Installs Transformers to Reduce Power Cuts | August 16 | The Reporter (Addis Ababa)**

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408160044.html>

By Kaleyesus Bekele

In a bid to curb the recurrent power cuts, the Ethiopian Electric Services has installed 248 transformers in Addis Ababa and the regional states.

The new transformers are believed to augment the existing old transformers which can hardly cope with the ever- increasing power load. In an exclusive interview with The Reporter, Alemyehu Tegenu, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, said that there was no shortage of electric power in the country. Alemayehu said the cause for the power cuts is related to the old power distribution lines. According to him, the power distribution network and the electric transformers are over-loaded.

Alemayehu said the power consumption trend in the country is changing. "Previously residents of Addis Ababa used biomass fuel. Now people use electric power to cook. The rapid investment activity needs more energy. The existing power generation capacity is adequate to accommodate the existing demand. However, the aging distribution system is unable to handle the ever-increasing power demand," Alemayehu said.

Electric transformers in Addis Ababa are exploding in every nook and corner. Residents of Addis Ababa question the quality of the transformers. However, Alemayehu said that the problem got nothing to do with the quality of transformers. "All the transformers are tested before they are installed. The problem is that there is a high power demand that the transformers at times are unable to accommodate. The power load is too high for them."

According to the minister, to mitigate the power cuts the Ethiopian Electric Services has installed 248 supportive transformers all over the country. A Chinese power company, China Hydro, hired by the Ethiopian Electric Services has installed 170 of the supportive transformers. "We have noted some



improvements and we will install more supportive transformers based on the need assessment we undertake."

Alemayehu said the old transmission lines are being replaced with the new ones, adding that hundreds of new substations are being installed. "We have built new substations in Sebeta, Sululta and Akakai towns," he added.

The country now has an installed generation capacity of 2,268 MW from hydro, wind, geothermal and thermal energy. The electric power demand is increasing at a rate of 32 percent every year. Every year more than 700 MW of new power demand is created due to the flourishing manufacturing sector. According to the minister, the current demand for electric power is more than 2000 MW.

The Ethiopian government is currently building power plants with a total installed generation capacity of 8450 MW. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (6000 MW), the Gilgel Gibe III (1870 MW), Genale Dawa (254 MW), Adama II wind power project (153 MW) and the 70 MW geothermal power development project in the rift valley are the ongoing power projects that will rescue the country from power crisis.

## **Ghana: Akosombo Dam to Operate at Full Capacity Despite Low Level of Water in the Reservoir | August 20 | Ghana Broadcast Company**

Source URL: <http://www.gbcghana.com/1.1815725>

Aug 20, 2014

Akosombo Dam to Operate at Full Capacity Despite Low Level of Water in the Reservoir - VRA

The Volta River Authority says despite the low level of water in the reservoir at Akosombo, the dam is operating at full capacity. The water level of the Akosombo dam is reportedly reducing steadily and it is feared the situation could force a shutdown of the dam if conditions do not improve in 60 days. The Akosombo Dam serves as Ghana's biggest plant with an installed capacity of 1020 megawatts. It currently produces about 775 megawatts, which is 76% of installed capacity. A total shutdown of the dam will leave Ghana with only 538 megawatts of electricity which will not meet the demands of consumers. The Head of Corporate Communication Sam Fletcher who spoke with Radio Ghana said the authority is putting in place contingency measures to generate the needed power should the water fall below operating levels. Mr. Fletcher also called for a conscious effort to conserve energy adding that it is more expensive to generate power than to conserve. The level of water as at yesterday was 74 point 25 meters as against a maximum level of 84.73 meters.. GBC

## **Ghana: Ghana in drive for long-term energy security | August 20 | BusinessDay**

Source URL: <http://businessdayonline.com/2014/08/ghana-in-drive-for-long-term-energy-security/>



August 20, 2014 Author: FEMI ASU

ard hit by gas supply shortage to its power plants in the early part of the year due to a significant reduction of the fuel from Nigeria, Ghana is taking steps to diversify its energy sources to achieve long-term energy security in the country.

The power crisis experienced by Ghana as a result of Nigeria's failure to meet the gas supply obligations to the country by more than 50 percent of the contractual volume forced the Ghanaian President John Mahama to send the country's energy and petroleum minister in March to Nigeria to hold talks with his Nigerian counterpart in a bid to addressing the crisis.

Contractual volume of gas supply to Ghana through the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) is 120 million standard cubic feet per day (mmscfd). But WAGP gas supply fell to about 30 mmscfd earlier in the year.

As a result of supply shortfall from the WAGP, the country had to resort to use of heavy oil at its dual-fuelled power plants.

In 2012, WAGP shipped an average of 65 mmcf of natural gas and the pipeline was shut down later in the year, following damage to the Togolese section of the pipeline, after suspected oil thieves vandalised the pipeline. Protracted delays in repairing the pipeline resulted in no gas supply to Ghana for several months from WAGP. In 2013, about 40-50 mmcf was supplied to Ghana.

### **450MW floating power stations**

In what is the latest step by the second-largest economy in West Africa, the government of Ghana has reached an agreement with Turkish power vessel maker Karadeniz Holding to deliver two floating power stations that will supply 450 megawatts (MW) to the national grid over the next ten years.

The floating stations, which are typically built from converted freighters, will likely berth offshore Ghana and connect to the national grid through the Takoradi or Tema transmission systems. The first vessel is expected to be delivered in the first quarter of 2015.

The contract could potentially be extended for another 10 years afterwards, according to energy analysts at Ecobank in report last week. "The vessels can use fuel oil or natural gas to generate electricity, hence offers Ghana an opportunity to also monetise its gas reserves," said the analysts including Dolapo Oni.

### **Offshore gas reserves**

Ghana is also looking to its offshore gas fields to meet its future energy needs. The gas reserves at Anglo-Irish explorer Tullow's Jubilee and TEN fields, as well as Italian IOC ENI's Sankofa and Gye Nyame fields have been put at about 3 Tcf and could play a critical role in meeting Ghana's future energy demand.

"The future for us is to depend on our own gas. We cannot 100 percent depend on them [Nigeria]. The future is to get this gas from Ghana and to have LNG and invest in LNG infrastructure; that's what we are looking at. The future is to get that massive infrastructure in this country to help drive

thermal generation to drive the economy. The levels [of gas from the fields in the country] are high,” said Isaac Kirk Koffi, chief executive of the Volta River Authority (VRA) said last year.

### **Gas processing plant to come online this year**

“We are investing a lot in the gas processing plant at Atuabo in the Western Region of the country,” Kamil Mohammed, president, Ghana Oil & Gas Service Providers Association (GOGSPA), told BusinessDay West Africa Energy by phone.

Ghana is expected to commence production of about 150 mmscf of natural gas daily by September from Tullow Oil’s Jubilee oilfield.

The Ghana Gas Infrastructure Project at Atuabo, which is to process raw gas from the Jubilee field, was expected to be completed by the end of April this year. The delay in the completion of the project has been attributed to some technical challenges being tackled. Mohammed noted that as part of the government efforts to diversify the country’s energy sources, the Bui hydro power project was recently commissioned.

“We are not likely to get more gas from Nigeria because Nigeria is getting good prices for the commodity from new markets in Europe. Ghana must therefore develop her own sources of gas,” Mohammed Amin Adam, executive director, Africa Centre for Energy Policy, was quoted to have said.

### **LNG regasification infrastructure**

In March, American firm HR Wallingford commenced an advanced study to support the development of Ghana’s liquefied natural gas (LNG) regasification infrastructure.

The planned LNG facility is expected to deliver enough gas to produce 1000MW from 2016. At peak capacity, the plant will generate 450 mmcf/d and could be expanded further if gas demand exceeds this level.

“The LNG plant is significant for Ghana’s long-term energy security as the country’s gas production from its own reserves is unlikely to keep up pace with its energy needs. Furthermore, supply from the WAGP is unlikely to be sufficient despite recent increases in WAGP supply,” said energy analysts at Ecobank.

### **Growing gas demand in the country**

Ghana currently needs 244 mmcf/d to power its gas-fired power plants and for re-injection into oil fields.

By 2018, Ghana will require more 800mmcf/d for its power plants, to satisfy demand from industrial customers and the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) segment.

While Ghana’s offshore gas fields hold at least 3 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas reserves and could contribute an estimated 500mmcf/d to the domestic market, supply from these offshore fields are currently hampered by delays in the development of gas infrastructure.

Although more expensive than piped gas, a planned floating regasification facility offshore Ghana would potentially supply 450mmcf from Q4 2016 and effectively match Ghana's gas demand in the medium-term, according to the Ecobank report.

Over the next few years, the country's gas demand is expected to increase significantly; first to around 511 mmcf in 2015 and then to 722 mmcf in 2016.

The government hopes to generate 5,000MW of electricity by 2017, with several gas-fired power plants expected to come on stream over the next few months. The plants which include an additional 360MW of capacity at the Sunon Asogli plant, 230MW Kpone thermal plant and TAQA's new 300MW plant are expected to be completed in 2015 and 2016 and will require gas volumes of about 500 mmcf. WAGP, which runs from Nigeria's gas-rich Niger Delta region to Takoradi in Ghana, until recently was the only source of gas supply for Ghana. At full capacity, WAGP can provide 120 mmcf, just under half of Ghana's gas requirement.

## FEMI ASU

### Ghana: U.S., Ghana Sign Compact to Transform Power Sector | August 18

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408183160.html>

press release

Washington, DC — The Millennium Challenge Corporation signed the largest U.S. Government-funded transaction of President Obama's Power Africa initiative—designed to double access to power on the African continent—with the Government of Ghana. The Ghana Power Compact invests up to \$498.2 million to support the transformation of Ghana's electricity sector and stimulate private investment. Secretary of State John Kerry and President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana spoke at the compact's signing ceremony, which was held during the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit at the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C.

The five-year compact is designed to create a self-sustaining energy sector in Ghana by reforming laws and regulations needed to transform the country's power sector. The Ghana Power Compact is expected to catalyze more than \$4 billion in private energy investment and activity from American and global energy firms in the coming years. The compact will support improved management of Ghana's entire power system, providing a more robust framework for private investment as well as a more competitive process for the procurement of power from independent producers. It will address challenges in distribution, generation and access to energy in Ghana. Ghana will invest \$37.4 million of its own funds in the initiative making the compact a total investment of up to \$535.6 million.

"MCC's Ghana Power Compact takes a system-wide approach to transforming Ghana's energy sector. The compact invests in projects focused on distribution to make the country's power utility financially viable and capable of attracting private investment while it also funds initiatives supporting greater energy-efficiency and cleaner renewable energy. These investments will provide Ghanaian homes, schools and hospitals with the access to the reliable electricity they need to thrive," said Dana J. Hyde, MCC's chief executive officer.

MCC will make an initial investment of up to \$308.2 million, including funding to put the Electricity Company of Ghana, the country's main distribution company, on a sustainable path, help the utility meet current electricity needs and upgrade infrastructure to reduce outages and improve service. A second tranche of up to \$190 million in funds will be made available if Ghana accomplishes a set of reform targets set forth in the compact.

"This new Compact with the MCC demonstrates the growing cooperation between Ghana and the USA. It will benefit millions of our people and contribute immensely to the achievement of my 'Energy For All' objective," said John Dramani Mahama, Ghana's president.

Thousands of micro-, small- and medium-sized businesses in Ghana, many operated by women, do not have legal access to electricity. The MCC compact will also provide funds to reduce the barriers to legal connections for these enterprises.

Read statements of support for the Ghana Power Compact from American and global energy companies [here](#).

For Power Africa's first, five-year phase, through 2018, the U.S. Government has committed more than \$7 billion in financial support and loan guarantees, in addition to the expertise of 12 U.S. Government agencies. With the compacts it is developing with Liberia and Tanzania, MCC ultimately plans to invest about \$1 billion to support Power Africa.

*MCC is an innovative and independent U.S. agency that is working to reduce global poverty through economic growth. Created by the U.S. Congress in January 2004, with strong bipartisan support, MCC provides time-limited grants and assistance to countries that demonstrate a commitment to good governance, investments in people and economic freedom.*

## Kenya: American Firms Told to Bid for Energy Projects | August 18 | The Star (Kenya)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408180955.html>

By James Waithaka

American companies should compete to develop power projects if Kenya is to get a bigger chunk of funds under Power Africa, according to Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir.

Power Africa is an initiative by the American government to help double access to electricity in Africa countries. It is initially focusing on six countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia.

The initiative received a boost during the recent US-Africa Summit after funding was increased nearly four-fold to \$26 billion (Sh2.29 trillion) from the previous plan of \$7 billion (Sh616.28 billion).

"American companies in Kenya will become more competitive in terms of funding availability and they have good technology. Therefore, we (Kenya) should draw more of that money," Chirchir said on Thursday.

"Kenya's aggressiveness in terms of what we are doing will draw a lot of that money into our region - we have clear power development matrices."

Power Africa is supporting the 300-megawatt Lake Turkana Wind Power project through risk mitigation and risk guarantees after the World Bank pulled out late 2012.

It is involved in financing the 61MW Kinangop Wind Park, Kipeto Wind Farm (100MW) in Kajiado being developed by American company General Electric, as well as Ngong Hills Wind Farm (100MW) by KenGen.

GE will supply turbines to the Kinangop Wind Farm which reached financial closure last November. Its Kipeto project will be financed to the tune of \$300 million (Sh26.41 billion) by Power Africa.

The initiative is also involved in the 140MW Longonot Geothermal Power project being developed by Agil, and the Bogoria-Silale geothermal complex that has an estimated potential of up to 800MW.

"All these are private sector projects and the cost of development varies... They are significant investments," Chirchir said.

Lake Turkana Wind Power project in Loiyangalani, he said, has reached financial closure and was expected to be issued with the final notice to proceed by last Friday, starting with line construction.

It will begin installing turbines within the next four months, according to Chirchir.

"We are paying some Sh2.5 billion as a 15 per cent down-payment as one of the conditions precedent for the work to start and we are set to go," he said.

The project is to be developed at a cost of €623 million (Sh73.32 billion) and comprises 365 wind turbines of 850 kilowatts capacity each.

## **Kenya: Array of Workshops At Nairobi Energy Summit | August 15 | CAJ News Africa**

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408151200.html>

By Antony Langat

Nairobi — LOCAL firms are set to benefit from free technical workshops that will be offered during the East African Power Industry Convention (EAPIC) to be held in Nairobi in early September.

According to organizers, the summit would offer two days of practical workshops on energy efficiency, plant maintenance and clean energy solutions for the utility and large power users.

"EAPIC is the longest running power conference and expo in East Africa because we continually strive to remain a relevant and practical gathering by the industry, for the industry, at a time when resources are under the spotlight," said Irene Ochem, EAPIC Programme Director.

"Therefore the EAPIC technical workshop programme offers practical solutions, lessons learnt from case studies and problem-solving mechanisms to assist power companies and utilities in improving their efficiency and productivity."

The high-level conference and expo will gather more than 1000 attendees along with exhibitors showcasing the latest technologies, products and services across the entire energy value chain from generation, transmission, distribution, services and renewable energy solutions.

EAPIC spokesperson, Irene Ochem, said the workshops were suitable for project managers, electrical contractors/engineers, network operators, operations managers, energy managers, planning and technical managers, facility managers and maintenance managers; as well as business development managers, large power users and consultants.

She added there was ample opportunity in the East African sub-region for hydro, geothermal, wind and solar power to reduce fossil fuel use and power plant operating costs.

"Renewable energy will therefore continue to play an important and a significant role in the region for the next decades," she added.

## **Kenya: Kenya Boosts Wind Power in Its Renewable Energy Mix | August 14 | AlterNet - Thompson Reuters**

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408141494.html?viewall=1>

By Maina Waruru

Nairobi — Kenya is set to gain more wind farms as the East African country moves to increase and diversify its clean energy resources.

Nairobi-based company Bluesea Energy Ltd has announced it will begin producing 40 megawatts (MW) in the second half of 2015 at its flagship wind power plant in Meru, expanding the renewable energy mix of a country that has previously relied on hydro and geothermal energy.

"We are moving away from traditional methods of generating power such as thermal, to clean methods of producing the same using our wind resource, which is more innovative and cuts carbon emissions," the company's chairman, David Ikiara, said in a phone interview.

Ikiara said the new plant would generate employment opportunities for young people.

"This will also teach communities, especially the youth, about innovative, non-traditional ways of generating power," he added.

The company has applied to the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) for a generation license for its first wind farm in Meru, central Kenya, with a view to selling power to the national grid.

Bluesea announced in 2011 that it would invest \$100 million to establish three wind-power plants in Meru and neighbouring Isiolo district, and in the Lambwe Valley in southern Kenya, producing between 7 MW and 60 MW.



Meru will be the first of these to become operational, and construction on the other two plants is scheduled to start later next year. Feasibility studies for those plants have been completed and financing has been negotiated with banks, Ikiara told Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The Meru plant is significantly bigger than the Ngong wind power station, located on the outskirts of Nairobi, which is owned and operated by the public utility Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen).

Ngong produces 6.8 MW, but KenGen plans to upgrade its capacity to 25 MW by 2016, according to its executive director Albert Mugo.

## COSTLY TO SET UP

Meanwhile, the country's largest wind power project is now under construction at Lake Turkana in the north, near the border with Ethiopia, after \$686 million in funding was secured earlier this year from a consortium of financiers including the African Development Bank.

Due for completion in 2019, the project will be the single biggest wind power plant in Africa, contributing 300 MW to the national grid.

Kenya has the potential to produce up to 1,000 MW of wind power, according to the ERC - equal to around two thirds of the country's current installed capacity of 1,600 MW.

Some 800 MW comes from hydropower and 350 MW from the geothermal sources that abound in the Rift Valley region, with the rest from oil-powered plants.

Fredrick Nyang, ERC director-general, said a map of the whole country has been drawn up to identify locations with potential for wind power.

"Detailed feasibility studies are underway to determine the viability of specific sites identified in the wind map," said Nyang. The northern regions of Marsabit, Turkana and Samburu are known to have strong promise, he added.

Energy Principal Secretary Joseph Njoroge blamed the lack of significant investment in wind power to date on high infrastructure costs, including the initial expense of setting up wind farms.

"The other obstacle is the cost of connecting such power to the national grid, which would also involve construction of many kilometres of transmission lines," Njoroge added.

## FOSSIL FUELS TOO

According to the ERC, Kenya has an estimated potential of up to 10,000 MW from geothermal. Extensive exploration of suitable sites for drilling is underway in at least 20 different locations by private firms and government agencies including Geothermal Development Company (GDC), a state firm set up to spearhead exploitation of the resource.

Njoroge said the country would pursue clean energy despite continuing to explore for oil, gas and coal.



"We have our priorities right - we are not pursuing fossil fuels so as to abandon intensified exploration and exploitation of renewable energy, but mainly to boost the country's economy," he said.

Kenya has recently discovered 400 million tonnes of coal and an estimated 600 million barrels of oil. Exploitation of these resources is expected to begin by 2020. The government says it will help the country attain middle-income status by 2030.

*Maina Waruru is a freelance contributor for the Thomson Reuters Foundation, based in Nairobi, with an interest in science and climate change issues.*

## Kenya: Wind Energy to Ease Cost of Electricity | August 12 | The Star

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408121268.html>

By Mercy Gakii

Three million Kenyans are set to benefit from green energy with increased wind power feeding electricity to the national grid, according to a ministry of Energy official.

Isaac Kiva the director renewable energy and petroleum said independent power producers will reduce the cost of power by up to 40 per cent due to the use of cheaper, more reliable technology such as wind energy.

Presently, wind energy provides 5.1 MW to the national grid, and this is expected to go up to 20.5 MW.

The Danish Business Network in Kenya will partner with the government in the provision of equipment for the construction of wind turbines through Danish firms, who are expected to provide a third of all wind turbines for production of electricity locally.

"We have set aside Sh18 billion in the next four years for three main areas, mainly developing green technologies, supporting regional security and devolution efforts in the country," said Geert Aagaard Andersen, Danish Ambassador to Kenya.

The first wind for prosperity projects will focus on 13 sites that are home to more than 200,000 people. They will enjoy electricity services at a third of the prices being charged to consumers today. The first six sites will be covered in the first phase in a year's time, and will directly benefit members of the communities where the projects will be set up.

The Turkana wind power project is expected to give 300 MW to the national grid, while Kipeto and Kinangop will give 100 M and 60 MW each. Overall, 300 MW of wind energy will be contributed to the national grid over the next three years when these projects are complete.

## Liberia: Energy Company Donates to Health Ministry | August 19 | The News

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408191332.html>

By Sam Zota, Jr.

The Management of the Liberia Energy Network (LEN) has donated over seventy pieces of energy lights to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

LEN President Abubaka Sheriff said the donation of the seventy-five pieces of the 'S-20' lights to the Ministry is intended for onward distribution and use at five key hospitals in the country.

Speaking at the Ministry of Health Thursday, Mr. Sheriff said the lights will initially be distributed to the John F. Kennedy, Redemption, Catholic, ELWA and the Dusa Hospitals.

He said LEN sees energy as essential, especially at these hospitals where suspected Ebola and other patients are treated adding "If you have light, you have life...".

Receiving the donation, Assistant Health Minister for Administration, John Linga expressed appreciation to the company for the donation and called on other companies and individuals to join the process especially during these challenging times of the country.

Minister Linga said the donation is necessary to provide lights to health workers mainly in the counties.

## **Nigeria: FG Earmarks N752 Billion for Expansion of Power Transmission for Five Years | August 15 | Leadership (Abuja)**

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408151204.html>

Vice President Namadi Sambo on Thursday said the Federal Government had earmarked N752 billion for expansion of power transmission in the next five years.

Sambo said this at the inauguration of the National Council on Power in Abuja.

Sambo, represented by the Minister of Power, Prof Chinedu Nebo, said government would continue to expand the national transmission grid to all parts of the country.

He said this would be done through additional resources leveraged from Development Finance Institutions (DFIs).

The VP said government was also committed to adequate provisions within the national annual budget in the years ahead.

He added that government also intended that more innovative approaches would be adopted to fund the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) by opening private sector investment window in future.

He said some institutions had been established to earn investors' confidence by further enhancing the environment for doing business in the sector.

Sambo said for the sector to grow in the direction the government intended it to be, metering gap amongst consumers must be bridged to shore up market revenue.

He said it was for this reason that government was sourcing for various funding.

Sambo said this included opening an initial N33 billion soft term credit line to enable the distribution companies to acquire smart meters.

He stated that the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Mines and Solid Minerals Development had been directed to ensure the take-off of the first large scale coal-to- power project.

Sambo called on the council to come up with clear roles and mandates for stakeholders in the sector, as well as set targets and strategies toward achieving the power reform objectives.

The minister of power, who is also the Chairman of the council, said it would facilitate the progress needed to adequately advance the sector.

Nebo said the council would ensure the transformation of power to launch the country into an era of massive industrialisation and double digit GDP growth rate.

He told the stakeholders that the ministry would create consistent policies to support access to power, energy diversification and energy security for the country.

"Let us continue onwards with determination and perseverance to provide power to all Nigerians relentlessly until the frontier of darkness has been driven away from Nigeria", he said. (NAN)

## **Nigeria: FG Extends N33 Billion to Discos for Electricity Meters | August 14 | Daily Independent**

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408150093.html>

By Obas Esiedesa

Abuja — The Federal Government on Thursday said it is extending a soft term credit of N33 billion to enable electricity distribution companies (Discos) bridge the huge 2.8 million metering gap existing in the country.

Government said it is concerned about low metering in the sector and the continued incidences of arbitrary or estimated billing, by the firms handed over to private owners last November.

Attempts to close the gap before now failed, even as Vice President Namadi Sambo, who announced government's latest plan while inaugurating the National Council on Power (NCOP) in Abuja, said adequate metering would boost revenues to the electricity companies.

Sambo whose address was presented by the Minister of Power, Chinedu Nebo, said government was working hard to ensure that operators of the sector are provided with wide range of funding sources to support the sector.

According to him, "for the power sector to progressively grow in the direction in which government intends it to be, this metering gap must be bridged immediately. Indeed, adequate metering gap could play a multiplier role by shoring up the market revenues of the distribution companies themselves and also ensuring greater equity and accuracy in the billing of consumers.

"It is for this reason that government is sourcing various funding avenues, including opening an initial N33 billion soft term credit line to enable the distribution companies acquire smart meters and making them more available.

"Besides our commitment to adequate provisions within our national annual budget in the years ahead, we will continue to expand our national transmission grid to all parts of the country through additional resources leveraged from development financial institutions such as Africa Development Bank AfDB), Islamic Development Bank, World Bank Group, Japan International corporation Agency (JICA) among others".

The Vice President said a "total of \$4.7 billion (N752 billion) is already being earmarked, for transmission expansion in the next five years. In addition to this, it is also intended that more innovative approaches will be adopted to fund the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) through opening possible private sector investment windows at the nearest time possible".

Sambo further stated that "as it pertains to the overall funding of the power sector, a number of efforts are being made to leverage resources from various funding agencies to ensure that all participants in the sector have access to funds under soft and long term conditions".

## **Nigeria: Katsina Windmill Power Project | August 14 | Daily Trust**

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408150343.html>

The prolonged delay in the completion of the 10megawatts wind turbine power plant in Katsina has become a matter for serious concern. Unless action is taken promptly the project, which is already four years behind schedule, the prospect of further delay is a distinct possibility.

Even the promise made by President Goodluck Jonathan during his visit to the site in March this year that it would be completed in three months hence has not been met. The likelihood that it would be commissioned by the end of 2014 is thus a receding possibility.

Against the backdrop of the depressed condition of Nigeria's power sector, this is an unfortunate development.

For a project that was 90 percent completed by October 2012, and enjoyed copious assurances of both the president and officials of the power ministry with respect to its eventual commissioning, its present inactive state is a sad commentary not only on its fortunes but also a lamentable indication of government's failure to match words with action with regard to the power supply situation in the country.

The Katsina project, if completed, would be a positive step because it was envisaged to supply power to the state capital and its environs. When it was started by the state government of late Umaru Yar Adua's first tenure as governor, the Federal Ministry of Power developed a road map for the promotion of wind turbine power throughout the country, in which selected towns were designated to benefit from the scheme. Katsina being one of such towns, the state government spearheaded its development there. Later it was taken over by the Federal Government as a vital part of its renewable energy power project when Yar Adua took office as president in 2007.

The project comprises a complement of 37 units of 275kw wind turbine generators, mounted at a height of 55 metres and was awarded at a contract price of N4.4billion to the French firm of Messrs Vergnet SA, with a completion period of 24 months. Work on the project was delayed at a stage following the abduction, and later release, of a French engineer who worked on it. Since then however, officials have assured that the security challenges that led to his abduction have been addressed thereby making the completion of the project realisable.

The imperative of completing the Katsina project is driven by several factors. Beyond the need to integrate it into the national grid lays its promise of inspiring further investment of both private and public resources in the renewable energy sub-sector. As the first major wind powered turbine farm in the country, its success or failure would be a reference point for subsequent initiatives in that respect.

Wind powered turbines have become regular features in several countries where they serve as mainstay facilities in environments such as farms, observatories, security installations, water supply and power dependent projects located in remote areas. They therefore offer significant promise for clean and affordable rural electrification in Nigeria, where the traditional dependence on fossil fuel powered plants has been problematic. With wind power, the typical constraints facing fossil fuel powered facilities and related environmental challenges would be bypassed.

Nigeria has an installed capacity of 5,900mw of power supply, but generates between 3,200mw - 4,000 mw of power, with losses attributed to systemic maladies, like gas shortages or drops in hydro levels. Meanwhile, only an estimated 10 percent of rural households and 40 percent of urban locations have access to public electric power supply, according to official estimates. Even with the problematic supply, the country still contends with energy losses of between 30 percent and 35 percent from generation to billing, with the rate of revenue collection put at 36 percent on average.

In this context, the need for the speedy development of additional power plants, especially under the renewable category is urgent. That is why the Katsina project serves as a test case for the government. Its completion and speedy commissioning, and the expansion to other locations, would revalidate the government's commitment to stable power supply in Nigeria in the near future.

## **Nigeria: Three Nasarawa Communities to Benefit From Sustainable Energy Projects August 15 | Leadership (Abuja)**

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408180541.html>

An UNDP official said on Friday three communities in Karu Local Government Area, Nasarawa State, are to benefit from the Global Environment Facility - United Nations Development Programme (GEF-UNDP) on energy efficiency.

Mr Etiosa Uyigue, the National Project Coordinator of GEF-UNDP project, made this known to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Roguwa community of Karu, after a workshop to sensitise members of the three communities to the project.

According to Uyigue, the three communities, namely: Roguwa, Upper Uke and Lower Uke - will benefit from the GEF-UNDP project, which is aimed at boosting residents' access to energy.

"It is part of the climate change mitigation; two principle ways to mitigate climate change is to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.

"Now why Solar? You have access the resources that are most available; so, that determines the type of technology you will use to generate electricity.

"In this part, we are very close to the equator and the solar regime in the equatorial region is very high.

"In Nigeria we only have few places where the wind speed is high, in some part of the North and coast.

"So, that is why are not looking at the wind option."

Uyigue said that the installation of solar panels for the pilot project would start in third week of August.

He said that at least 50 solar panels would be installed in strategic locations in the three benefiting communities.

He said that the solar panels would generate at least seven kilowatt for the households in those communities.

According to him, the project will generate four kilowatt in Upper Uke and Lower Uke respectively and three kilowatt in Roguwa.

He said that the project had inbuilt mechanism to ensure its sustainability.

According to him, a Local Energy Regulatory Committee (LERC) with gender balance will be set up to maintain the project.

The project coordinator said that the community leadership would be allowed to nominate individuals that would serve as the committee members.

Uyigue explained that the committee members would be given further training on how to maintain and install solar panels.

"The sustainability of any project is best done by the benefiting community.

"All over the world, we have seen that to sustain any project, the sustainability must come from the benefiting community because it is their project.

"And because it is something that they need and it is useful to them, they will want it to continue.

"That is why in this model we are now making the benefiting community to sustain the project instead of waiting for an external force to sustain it."

Uyigue said that the committee members would ensure that users of the borehole that would be installed along with the facility paid for the water they would be getting.

"The committee members can then use proceeds from this to maintain the facility.

"In Roguwa community, a metering device called "Current Limiter" will be installed in each benefiting household. This is to ensure that community members pay for the electricity they use.

"It will also prevent them from drawing more current than what has been allocated to each household.

"Also, LERC members would be responsible for managing the facility from the sale of the electricity on behalf of the community." (NAN)

## **Tanzania: Biogas Tech Set to Raise Farmers' Income | August 12 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)**

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408120283.html>

By Nashon Kennedy

SERENGETI District agricultural team has set up a bio-gas plant which is expected to be exemplary of modern farming and productivity .

In an interview with the 'Daily News' at the just ended Nane Nane exhibitions at Nyamhongolo Grounds in Mwanza, the Serengeti District Agriculture Irrigation Officer, Mr Simion Waryuba said the plant could be built at home. Biogas refers to gas produced from organic matters.

It can be useful at home as a school project, institution and even at the hospital. "While agriculture remains the backbone of our economy, still, a number of farmers are not aware of the functions of agricultural resources surrounding them.

We are bringing this technology to them to have sustainable agro-business, which is interactive as well as integrated," Mr Waryuba says.

Biogas can also be produced by anaerobic digestion or fermentation of biodegradable materials such as biomass, manure, sewerage, municipal waste, green waste and energy crops.

Agro business can be used to increase production for both food security and income generation to farmers. "For example, the integration of livestock keeping and the use of biogas plant can help farmers improve horticultural crops by using drip irrigation system to raise crops through out the year.

The farmer will have an assurance of food security at household level," Mr Waryuba said. The plant can be built from waste from two cows and above depending on the purpose of the farmer.

"A farmer can use the plant as a source of energy for cooking, lighting, ironing where a biodigester of 30 to 50 cubic meters can be used," he said.



Mr Waryuba said the energy produced by the system can be used to run an already motorised generator for electricity generation, following an ignition by petrol engine.

He named the products of the bio-digester as bio slurry and gas (methane). He said the technology which varies in size and capacity is installed in the district where the farmers are supposed to pay for equipment.

He said a biogas plant at household level of 6 cubic meters may require four cows at a cost ranging from 900,000/- to 1.2m/- while a 9 cubic meter may need seven cows at a cost of 1.5m/- .

A 13 cubic meter plant requires ten cows and 1.7m/- to 2m/- depending on the size and requirements of a farmer. "And for an institution and hospital the requirement is twenty cows and 30 cubic meter, with the cost ranging from 30m/- to 50m/-", he said.

Another technology is the adoption of cassava 'Mkombozi' variety which withstands viruses. As for tomatoes, Mr Waryuba says production per plant increased from 1 kg to 3kgs in the same season.

On the environment, he said biogas controls environment degradation and can also be used for bee keeping "In bee keeping we get honey and its all products such as beeswax, bee polis, royal jelly and pollination," he said. Despite its economic potential and efforts made by the district, farmers are still facing a lot of challenges.

He mentioned them as inadequate supply of water at household level and low response of farmers to adopt technology. "The government has not yet located enough funds to support farmers in order to adopt improved farming technology," he said.

Population increase in the district, against the size of land is affecting both crop and livestock production and is another challenge.

He said in order to slow population growth so as to suit the size of land, people have to adopt the land use plan for sustainable development of the district and countrywide before long.

"By not doing so, the minority rich will misappropriate a large area of land and thus cause the majority to suffer land conflicts and disputes," he said.

## **Tanzania: New Geothermal Firm Established | August 19 | Tanzania Daily News**

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408190283.html>

By Alvar Mwakyusa

BLESSED with the potential to generate over 4,000 megawatts of electricity from geothermal sources, the government has formed a company to steer the country into effectively and beneficially tapping it.

Operating as a subsidiary of Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco), the Tanzania Geothermal Development Company started operations in July this year, according to the Energy and Minerals Minister, Professor Sospeter Muhongo.

"We have huge potential in geothermal since Tanzania has the largest share of the East Africa's Rift Valley system. I should admit that we have delayed to make use of this opportunity," Prof Muhongo has told the 'Daily News' in an interview.

Tanzania has the largest part of both the Eastern and Western Arm of the East African Rift Valley system, which experts say is very suitable for producing geothermal energy.

Prof Muhongo expressed optimism that the country would start generating electricity from the new but cheap source of energy within the next two years.

"The company started in July by exploring sites where production can start but Lake Ngozi in Mbeya has so far identified as a suitable to start generation.

"However, generation through geothermal unlike other sources is done in phases so we should not expect to have the 4,000 plus megawatts overnight," the minister explained. Prof Muhongo said the government was cooperating with other countries to get experience of how to go about the new source.

The countries include Germany, United States, Italy and Japan. Geothermal is listed number six on Prof Muhongo's option for electricity generation which he describes as 'energy mix' or 'matrix.'

Natural gas, coal and hydro are the best three choices that the government would make use of in generating power in the long run as the country aims to generate 3,000MW from the current 1,500MW in two years time.

Prof Muhongo mentioned other sources as renewable energy (solar), waves and tides as well as bio-energies (bio-mass and bio-gas).

With gas reserves currently totaling 50.5 trillion cubic feet, Prof Muhongo maintained that the government would not rely on the source but also consider other resources that the country is endowed with.

He said attainment of middle- income economy by 2025 as stipulated in the Vision 2025 will become a reality, if among others, the country is able to generate between 10,000 and 15,000MW by that year.

## **Tanzania: Rural Electrification Boost Farmers' Earnings | August 14 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)**

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408140195.html>

RURAL electrification has proved to be efficient driver in promoting value addition particularly of agricultural products that helped farmers to fetch premium market prices.

Statistics from Rural Energy Agency (REA) shows that there are 16 small hydropower projects operating since 1970's and 13 projects with a total capacity of 28.8 MW which are in various stages of development.

Presenting research paper on Management of the Hydro power plants in southern highlands in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, Mr Stephen Kirama, the University of Dar es Salaam lecturer and consultant said there was an increase of the processing and value addition to some selected products like sunflower, timber and coffee due to extension of electricity services in rural areas.

"Besides, increases in production and revenue, communities in these areas are highly motivated for further energy usage to alleviate poverty," he said.

The small hydropower projects are Lupali, Imiliwaha, Lugarawa, Mawengi, Wino, Matembwe and Ikondo located in Njombe Region, Ludewa District and Songea District.

The hydropower projects provides modern low cost energy services to households, business enterprise like milling machines, garages, juice extracting (jam and juice), poultry (incubators), tailoring business and normal kiosk.

He said the hydropower projects are also supplying for the public institutions like schools, hospitals, health centres and public offices within the village governments. Students in both boarding and day enjoy extra studies during evening due to power availability.

"The maternal and child health services have also improved not only during delivery in which they are no longer using fuel lamps but also accessibility of vaccination has increased," he said.

Since most of the projects are either non profits oriented or cost recovering, Mr Kirama called upon the government to subsidize and provide VAT exemptions as an incentive to keep them operating with an end goal to provide high quality services.

Also, it is high time that the National Environment and Management Council (NEMC) to suspend the planned environmental fees to be paid annually for use of water in generating electricity.